

We Claim

1. A method for treating menorrhagia comprising topically administering 5-aminolevulinic acid to the endometrium and exposing said endometrium to light having a wavelength within the photoactivating action spectrum of protoporphyrin IX.
2. A method for treating malignant and non-malignant hyperproliferative lesions of the skin, mucosa, endometrium and urothelium in a patient comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a precursor of protoporphyrin IX in the biosynthetic pathway for heme so as to induce synthesis of protoporphyrin IX in said lesions, and exposing said lesions to light within the photoactivating action spectrum of said protoporphyrin IX.
3. A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein said precursor is 5-aminolevulinic acid.
4. A method for detecting malignant and non-malignant tissue abnormalities and lesions of the skin, mucosa, endometrium and urothelium in a patient, comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a precursor of protoporphyrin IX in the biosynthetic pathway for heme so as to induce synthesis of protoporphyrin IX preferentially in said abnormalities and lesions, exposing

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said patient to light having a wavelength within the absorbance spectrum of said protoporphyrin IX to thereby induce fluorescence in said abnormalities or lesions, and detecting said fluorescence.

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